

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 MCT-01 SCA-01  
SCS-03 DHA-02 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-01  
L-03 /041 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:FJDEVINE:MPH

APPROVED BY ARA:FJDEVINE

ARA/AND/V - MR. SONANDRES

-----034538 131202Z /40

P 131136Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 162529

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, US, VE

SUBJECT: NIEHOUS CASE -- ALLEGED CONTACT BETWEEN KID-NAPPERS AND NIEHOUS FAMILY

REFERENCE: CARACAS 6883

1. IN ACCORDANCE PARA 3 REFTEL WE HAVE TELEPHONED COLEMAN OF OWENS-ILLINOIS IN ATTEMPT VERIFY CITED "EL MUNDO" NEWS STORY ON NEW CONTACT IN NIEHOUS CASE.

2. COLEMAN WAS AWARE OF THIS STORY AND TERMS IT SIMILAR TO OTHER RECENT INSTANCES OF TABLOID TREATMENT OF NIEHOUS CASE BUT FOR SOME REASON MORE WIDELY PUBLICIZED. US MEDIA CONTACTED OWENS-ILLINOIS AND DONNA NIEHOUS ON BASIS THEREOF.

3. ACCORDING TO COLEMAN THERE IS NO BASIS WHATSOEVER FOR THE STORY. THERE IS NO COUSIN NAMED ERNEST NIEHOUS AND NO COUSIN RESIDING IN BALTIMORE. THE ENTIRE NEWS REPORT

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APPEARS TO BE A FABRICATION. COLEMAN TERMS THIS SOMETHING OF A CRUEL HOAX WITH REGARD TO NIEHOUS FAMILY AND WONDERS WHAT IF ANYTHING CAN BE DONE TO EXPLORE MOTIVATION, SOURCE, ETC.

4. AS FAR AS NIEHOUS INVESTIGATION IS CONCERNED, COLEMAN

SAYS THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO MEANINGFUL CONTACTS, NO  
DIALOGUE, AND NO NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** NIEHOUS CASE -- ALLEGED CONTACT BETWEEN KID- NAPPERS AND NIEHOUS FAMILY  
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**Review Markings:**  
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